

NOTE ON SPHARAGEMON SAXATILE *Morse*.

By WM. BEUTENMÜLLER.

This species was recently described by Mr. Albert P. Morse (Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXVI, 1894, p. 229) from specimens collected in various parts of Massachusetts and Connecticut. On September 1st Mr. Wm T. Davis captured several examples of this insect on Bearfort Mt., Passaic Co., north of New Foundland, New Jersey, which is a new locality for the species.

It is blackish fuscous in spots and bands on an ash gray ground color; the abdomen is somewhat yellowish as also the face; on the pronotum is an ash gray X shaped mark on the disk; the wing covers are crossed by three obscure blackish bands; the hind femora are ash gray sprinkled with black outside and yellowish inside, with four black transverse bands, which are indistinct outside; the hind tibiae are coral red with a white ring near the base which is black. The hind wings are sulphur yellow somewhat semitransparent, with an arcuate median, black band. The apical third of the wing is transparent, apex more (male) or less (female) blackish. Length of body about .80 to 1 inch. = 20 to 25 mm.

This species has been named *saxatile* by Mr. Morse for the reason that it seems to find life most to its taste in unsettled, somewhat wooded districts of a rocky, often elevated character. Here it finds a congenial home and may be seen during the latter half of the season crawling actively about over the lichened ledges, whose tints harmonize with its own, or flying from one to another, stridulating loudly as it goes. Mr. Morse says it vividly recalls the cool gray of the rocks, the glory of the golden-rod, and the tints of reddened stems of trailing vines. So well do the colors of its body match those of its chosen haunts, -- the pale greenish gray and ashy of the paler rock-constituents and their lichen coverings, the brown and black of other lichens and the darker elements hornblend and mica or iron-stained disintegrated particles, -- that it is quite difficult to distinguished when at rest, and being an extremely alert insect some strategy is required to capture it.

The specimens lately captured by Mr. Davis, were taken on a rocky ledge, Bearfort Mt. been a locality in every respect similarly to that described as the favorite haunts of the species.